

CHAPTER 5.0

Coordination and Consultation

5.1 Introduction

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) decision-making process is conducted in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, Council on Environmental Quality regulations, and Department of the Interior (DOI) and BLM policies and procedures implementing NEPA. NEPA and the associated regulatory and policy framework require that all federal agencies involve interested groups of the public in their decision-making, consider reasonable alternatives to proposed actions, and prepare environmental documents that disclose the potential impacts of proposed actions and alternatives.

BLM holds collaborative management as a priority. Public involvement, consultation, and coordination have been at the heart of the planning process leading to this Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This has been accomplished through public meetings, informal meetings, individual contacts, planning bulletins, a planning Web site, and Federal Register notices.

5.2 Specific Consultation and Coordination Requirements

Federal laws require BLM to consult with Native Americans, the State Historic Preservation Office, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) during the planning/decision-making process. This section documents the specific consultation and coordination efforts undertaken by BLM throughout the entire process of developing the Draft RMP/EIS. In addition to the formal consultation process, the Public Scoping process is described in the Results of Scoping Report, Appendix C.

5.2.1 Native American Consultation

As part of the general scoping process, letters were sent to the 29 tribes. The letters requested information for consideration in the planning process. In addition, all Tribes were requested to be cooperating agencies.

5.2.2 State Historic Preservation Office

The Palm Springs–South Coast Field Office (PSSCFO) has been working with State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) during the planning process. Formal consultation will be finalized before the Record of Decision is signed.

5.2.3 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Consultation

The PSSCFO worked with the USFWS for the Endangered Species Act, Section 7 Consultation. Early in the planning process, BLM solicited known species listings for consideration in the planning process. Additionally, BLM worked with the USFWS on a variety of parallel issues such as Fuels Management and Border Security issues that were incorporated into the DRMP. BLM also coordinated review of the preliminary internal draft of the DRMP prior to publication. A review of the Administrative Draft RMP was conducted with staff of the USFWS Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office on August 6, 2009.

BLM will ensure that additional consultation will be initiated with the USFWS during review of the Final RMP/EIS which will be submitted for Section 7 Consultation and a corresponding Biological Opinion for the Proposed RMP/Final EIS.

5.3 Cooperating Agencies

The cooperating agency (CA) role derives from the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, which calls on federal, state, and local governments to cooperate with the goal of achieving “productive harmony” between humans and their environment. The Council on Environmental Quality’s (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA allow federal agencies (as lead agencies) to invite tribal, state, and local governments, as well as other federal agencies, to serve as CAs in the preparation of environmental impact statements. In 2005, the BLM amended its planning regulations to ensure that it engages its governmental partners consistently and effectively through the CA relationship whenever land use plans are prepared or revised.

40 CFR 1508.5 (CEQ) “Defining eligibility: ‘Cooperating agency’ means any Federal agency other than a lead agency which has ‘jurisdiction by law’ or ‘special expertise’ with respect to any environmental impact.... A State or local agency of similar qualifications or, when the effects are on a reservation, an Indian Tribe, may by agreement with the lead agency become a cooperating agency.”

The BLM sent out letters to invite agencies and tribes to participate in the planning process as Cooperating Agencies. Invitations were sent to 29 tribes and to 27 federal, state, and local agencies. The following agencies agreed to be Cooperating Agencies:

- Bureau of Indian Affairs, Southern California Agency
- San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy
- Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority
- Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians

A Memorandum of Understanding, outlining each agency’s roles and responsibilities was completed for each agency. The cooperating agencies were formally invited to participate in the development of the alternatives and to provide existing data on their responsibilities, goals, and mandates. The PSSCFO held meetings with the cooperating agencies from August 2007 through March 2008, concerning the approach to the

planning process and the development of alternatives. The cooperating agencies were invited to work with the BLM interdisciplinary team in developing the alternatives. Formal presentation of the Administrative Draft RMP Revision was held for the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority and the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy on March 31, 2009.

5.4 Coordination and Consistency

Coordination with other agencies and consistency with agency and local and state government plans are accomplished through intensive review of the planning documents, plans and policies of other agencies, as well as by direct communication.

5.4.1 Key Coordination Actions

Federal Agencies

- **U.S. Department of the Interior**
- **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.** The USFWS reviews actions affecting threatened or endangered species of fish, wildlife, or plants (Section 7 consultation, coordination, and review) and preparation of Biological Opinion.
- **U.S. Department of Agriculture**
- **U.S.D.A. Forest Service (USFS).** Portions of three National Forests (NF) are within the Planning Area; the Angeles NF, San Bernardino NF, and Cleveland NF. The USFS coordinates mineral leasing and other activities that affect lands administered within the national forests. The USFS reviews the Draft South Coast RMP/EIS for consistency with USFS planning.
- **Environmental Protection Agency.** The EPA participates in the environmental analysis and documentation process by providing information concerning environmental issues and compliance with NEPA. The EPA also reviews Draft RMP and Draft Environmental Impact Statement for completeness and rates the document for environmental sensitivity. The EPA files Federal Register notices.

State of California

- **California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG).** CDFG reviews the Draft RMP for goals and objectives, impact analysis, and Best Management Practices regarding wildlife and associated habitat.
- **State Historic Preservation Office.** Consults on compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act in accordance with the National Programmatic Agreement as implemented in the California Protocol Agreement.

County Agencies

Each county within the planning area has prepared or are revising General Management Plans which guide land use, zoning, and other issues for which the counties have jurisdictions. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) requires that, during the land use planning process, BLM coordinate with state and local agencies and strive for consistency with local land use plans (FLPMA Title II, Section (9)). In addition to General Management Plans, several counties and local jurisdictions have developed Habitat Conservation Plans (HCP) which meet the goals of the federal Endangered Species Act and the state Natural Community Conservation Planning Act (NCCP). The following key agencies participated in environmental analysis and documentation by providing information on environmental issues and project impacts on a variety of special species specific to each HCP.

- Riverside County Department of Planning and Land Use
- Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority
- Riverside County Habitat Conservation Authority
- San Diego County Department of Planning and Land Use MSCP Division
- San Diego County Department of Parks and Recreation Open Space Division
- San Diego Association of Governments

5.5 Public Participation

Public participation in the BLM planning process includes a variety of efforts to identify and address public concerns and needs. Public involvement assists the agencies in:

- broadening the information base for decision-making
- informing the public about the RMP/EIS and the potential impacts associated with various management decisions
- ensuring that public needs and viewpoints are understood by BLM.

5.5.1 Scoping Period

A Notice of Intent (NOI) was published in the Federal Register on August 7, 2007 to announce formally that the BLM PSSCFO was preparing an RMP and associated EIS. The notice invited the participation of the affected and interested agencies, organizations, and members of the general public in determining the scope and significant issues to be addressed in the planning alternatives and analyzed in the EIS. Formal scoping lasted over 60 days.

5.5.2 Scoping Notice

The official 60-day scoping period began when a public scoping notice was prepared and mailed to federal, state, and local agencies; interest groups; and the public on August 7, 2007. This information was also provided on the website.

The notice invited the public to participate in the scoping process and requested input on identifying resource issues and concerns, management alternatives, and other information valuable for the PSSCFO in determining future land use decisions. Included with the scoping notices was information on the PSSCFO management area, background information on the planning process, as well as preliminary planning issues and planning criteria.

5.5.3 Scoping Meetings

Public scoping meetings were held in three California communities. The scoping meetings were structured in an open-house format, with BLM specialists representing issues such as livestock grazing, mineral and energy development, and other resource areas. BLM specialists were available to provide information and responses to questions. Comments from the public were collected during the meetings and throughout the scoping period through a variety of methods — mail, fax, email, and the project Web site. Public scoping meetings are detailed below in the Scoping Report.

5.5.4 Scoping Report

A summary of public involvement was provided in a scoping report that was made available to the public in March of 2008. The Scoping report is found in Appendix C, Results of Scoping.

5.5.6 Distribution of the Draft RMP/EIS

Copies of the Draft RMP and Draft EIS will be available to numerous public libraries and local government offices throughout the planning area for public review and reference. Copies will also be distributed to those expressing an interest in the planning process. Other individuals and groups will receive a copy of the Draft RMP/EIS as a result of participation in scoping meetings, written scoping comments, or separate requests. The following is a list of agencies, jurisdictions, organizations, or individuals who have requested to review the document.

Federal Agencies

- **Bureau of Indian Affairs**
Southern California Agency
- **Bureau of Land Management**
California Desert District; California State Office
- **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**
Ventura, CA; Carlsbad, CA; San Diego National Wildlife Refuge and Complex
- **U.S. Geological Survey**
Western Ecological Research Center
- **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**
San Diego Border Office; Southern California Field Office; Region 9

- **Department of Defense**
Navy Region Southwest
- **U.S.D.A. Forest Service**
Pacific Southwest Region; Angeles National Forest; Cleveland National Forest;
San Bernardino National Forest; Los Padres National Forest
- **U.S. Navy**
Naval Base San Diego; Naval Special Warfare Group One; Central Integrated Product
Team; U.S. Marine Corps; Planning Branch
- **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**
Los Angeles District
- **U.S. Department of Homeland Security Customs and Border Protection**
San Diego Sector; Boulevard Field Station; Campo Field Station; Brown Field Station;
El Cajon Field Station; Chula Vista Field Station

California State Agencies

- California Coastal Conservancy
- California Department of Transportation
- California Department of Fish and Game
- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)
- California Department of Parks and Recreation
- Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy
- San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy
- Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
- San Diego River Conservancy
- San Diego State University Field Stations Program
- University of California, Riverside

Local Government

- City of Canyon Lake
- City of Chula Vista
- City of Escondido
- City of Hemet
- City of Highland
- City of Lake Elsinore
- City of Poway
- City of Redlands
- City of Riverside
- City of San Diego
- City of Santa Clarita
- City of Temecula
- Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
- Orange County Board of Supervisors

- Riverside County Board of Supervisors
- San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors
- San Diego County Board of Supervisors
- Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation
- Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning
- Otay Water District
- Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District
- Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency
- San Bernardino County Regional Parks
- San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District
- San Diego Association of Governments
- San Diego County Department of Planning and Land Use
- San Diego County Sheriff
- San Diego County Department of Parks and Recreation
- Southern California Association of Governments
- Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority

Indian Tribes and Councils

- Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
- Augustine Band of Mission Indians
- Barona Band of Mission Indians
- Cabazon Band of Mission Indians
- Cahuilla Band of Mission Indians
- Campo Band of Kumeyaay Indians
- Ewiiapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians
- Inaja-Cosmit Band of Mission Indians
- Jamul Indian Village
- La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians
- La Posta Band of Kumeyaay Indians
- Los Coyotes Band of Indians
- Manzanita Band of Kumeyaay Indians
- Mesa Grande Band of Mission Indians
- Morongo Band of Mission Indians
- Pala Band of Mission Indians
- Pauma/Yuima Band of Mission Indians
- Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians
- Ramona Band of Mission Indians
- Rincon Luiseno Band of Indians
- San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
- Santa Rosa Band of Mission Indians
- Santa Ynez Band of Mission Indians
- Santa Ysabel Band of Diegueño Indians
- Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians

- Sycuan Band of Kumeyaay Nation
- Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
- Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians

Congressional Representatives

- **U.S. Senate**
 - Honorable Dianne Feinstein
 - Honorable Barbara Boxer
- **U.S. House of Representatives**
 - Honorable Brian Bilbray
 - Honorable Susan Davis
 - Honorable Duncan Hunter
 - Honorable Darrell Issa
 - Honorable Bob Filner
 - Honorable Jerry Lewis
 - Honorable Howard P. “Buck” McKeon
 - Honorable Mary Bono-Mack

California State Legislature

- **State Senate**
 - Senate Districts 17, 18, and 20–40
- **State Assembly**
 - State Assembly Districts 38–79

Organizations

- Agri-Empire Corporation
- ARCADIS
- Archery Trade Association
- Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
- Backcountry Horsemen of America
- Back Country Land Trust
- Boone and Crockett Club of America
- Bowhunting Preservation Alliance
- California Native Plant Society
- California Wilderness Coalition
- Campfire Club of America
- Campo Planning Group
- Campo/Lake Morena Planning Group
- Center for Biological Diversity
- CIBA
- Clover Flats Ranch
- Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation

- Conservation Biology Institute
- Conservation Force
- Defenders of Wildlife
- Desert Protective Council
- Desert Survivors
- Ducks Unlimited
- Ecology and Environment
- Endangered Habitats League
- EnviroMINE, Inc.
- Escondido Creek Conservancy
- Father Joe's Village
- Fire Safe Council
- Flying D Ranch
- Foundation for North American Wild Sheep
- Friends of the Santa Clara River
- Fundacion La Puerta
- H.O.P.E
- Izaak Walton League of America
- Jamul Trails Council
- Klein Edwards Professional Services
- Mother Grundy Allotment
- Mountain Empire Citizen Group
- Mountain Empire Historical Society
- National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses
- National Rifle Association of America
- National Shooting Sports Foundation
- National Trappers Association
- National Wild Turkey Federation
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- Otay Ranch Company
- Pacific Crest Trail Association
- Pheasants Forever
- Public Lands Foundation
- Quail Unlimited
- RECON
- Resources Legacy Fund
- Riverside County Trails Committee
- Riverside Land Trust
- San Diego County Wildlife Federation
- San Diego Gas and Electric
- San Diego Natural History Museum
- San Diego Off Road Coalition
- San Diego Trout

- Santa Ana Watershed Association
- Sierra Club
- Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund
- South Bay Rod and Gun Club
- South Coast Wildlands
- Southern California Wilderness
- Starr Ranch
- Steel Peak Ranch
- The Conservation Fund
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Little Workshop
- The Wilderness Society
- Western Mining Council
- Wilderness Watch
- Wildlife Research Institute

Libraries

- **Los Angeles County**
 - Los Angeles County Public Library
 - Headquarters Office, Downey
 - North County Regional Office, Valencia
 - El Segundo Public Library
 - Glendale Public Library
 - Palmdale City Library
- **Riverside County**
 - Riverside County Public Library
 - Moreno Valley Branch
 - Sun City Branch
 - Temecula Branch
 - Beaumont District Library
 - Elsinore Public Library
 - Hemet Public Library
 - Palm Springs Public Library
 - Riverside Public Library
 - San Jacinto Public Library
- **San Bernardino County**
 - San Bernardino County Public Library
 - Main Library, San Bernardino
 - East Baseline Branch
 - Yucaipa Branch
 - San Bernardino Public Library
 - A.K. Smiley Public Library, Redlands

- **San Diego County**
 - San Diego County Public Library
 - El Cajon Regional Center
 - La Mesa Regional Center
 - Vista Regional Center
 - Escondido Public Library
 - San Diego Public Library
 - Chula Vista Public Library
 - Ramona Public Library

5.6 List of Preparers

Though individuals have primary responsibility for preparing sections of the Draft RMP and Draft EIS, the document is an interdisciplinary team effort. In addition, internal review of the document occurs throughout preparation. Specialists at the BLM's field office, State, and Washington office levels, review and supply information, as well as provide document preparation oversight. Contributions by individual preparers may be subject to revision by other BLM specialists and management during internal review. Table 5-1 lists the SCRMP Revision team members and responsibilities.

**Table 5-1
SCRMP Revision Team Members**

TEAM MEMBER	PLAN COMPONENT RESPONSIBILITY
Management	
Jim Abbott	BLM California State Director
Teresa Raml	BLM California Desert District Manager
John Kalish	BLM Palm Springs–South Coast Field Manager
Core Team	
Holly Roberts	Palm Springs–South Coast Associate Field Manager
Greg Hill	Planning & Environmental Coordinator – Team Lead / Special Areas
Interdisciplinary Team	
Marci Young Chris Dalu	GIS and Mapping
Janaye Byergo	San Diego Project Manager / Recreation / Transportation
Diane Gomez Allison Shaffer	Lands and Realty
Wanda Raschkow	Cultural resources; Tribal coordination
Kevin Doran	Range Management / Botany
Cheryl Martinez	Minerals
Joyce Schlachter Mark Massar	Threatened and Endangered Species / Habitat Evaluation
Tim Dunfee James Gannon Kristen Allison Clayton Howe	Fire Ecology and Suppression Strategies
Support Team	
Cam D’Angeles	Management Assistant; Document Editor
Gary Cotterell	Webmaster
Stephen Razo David Briery	External Affairs / Media Releases
RECON Environmental, Inc. and Associates	
Eija Blocker	Production Specialist
Warren L. “Skip” Hull	Economic Analysis
Cheryl Johnson	Air, Soil, Water Resources
Gregg Simmons	Technical Advisor
Jackson Underwood	Social and Economic Analysis
Lori Woods	Visual Resources; Project Management
David Gottfredson	Air, Soil, Water Resources; Project Management
Aspen Environmental Group	
Hedy Koczwar	Project Management; Document Editing / Organization / Production
Marisa Mitchell	Document Editing / Organization / Production
Mark Tangard	Document Editing / Organization / Production
Emily Capello	Document Editing / Organization / Production